



The Vale

Newsletter of Aylesbury Vale Golf Club
www.avgc.co.uk

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Edition 71, July 2020

Comment

Despite this unusual time in which we are living, we extend a huge welcome to our incoming Captains, together with sincere thanks to our Captains from the 2019/2020 season, including our Seniors' Captain who has been elected (willingly) for a consecutive term. Members will note from the logos at the head of this page that the same charities are being supported this year.



Kath Scott
Lady Captain



Keith McGovern
Men's Captain



Larry Goddard
Seniors' Captain



Abi Pearce
Junior Captain

News and Updates from the Club Management

Bar and catering facilities re-open on 4 July. Is this life back to normal? Far from it! Having worked through the guidelines for re-opening we have listed 19 areas for risk assessment and we plan to have these as a downloadable attachment to the website. We may amend these periodically, but they are designed to take us to the next review date of 1 September.

To summarise, we see the golf course as by far the lowest risk and indeed see the positive physical and mental benefits of the game in this pandemic. However, when it comes to the bar/catering our honest appraisal is that the outside environment will be far safer than inside. We reject the 1m spacing inside at this stage, (if not facing each other) in favour of the extra safety of remaining 2m apart. Indeed, in the restaurant we will also have perspex dividing screens, even though they are not necessary in the regulations.

The consequences of this are far fewer seats available inside. We will maximise the outside areas but admit that we are at the mercy of the weather. We can move the bar upstairs on occasions, which has room for 30 x 2m spaced seats, but even then no more than two households are permitted at the same table inside. There may also be times when we have to bring you drinks upstairs from the downstairs bar.

We intend to maximise the use of outside over the next two months. We have a summer job available for a youngster to deliver and collect glasses and to clean down tables and chairs after use. This will be with training and a large supply of gloves! We already have one youngster but could need one or two more. Please do ask anyone interested to make contact.

From 4 July there will be a new way to the 1st tee, around the outside of the laurel hedge. Access to the putting green will only be through the gap in the hedge and not from the astroturf pathway. This will give more personal space on the patio. Take your trolley around the left hand side of the 18th green when finishing, then use the new grass cut path through the rough. This will free up table space under the shade of nearby trees. Finally, we will require all trolleys to go to a new 'trolley park' on the grass by the Pro shop. This is close to Pro shop eyes and our security cameras. Alternatively, take your trolley straight to the car. Trolleys left around tables will lead to people inadvertently impinging upon the space of others and staff are instructed to move abandoned trolleys to the buggy park. At the buggy park it will be 'one person at a time' so fish your keys/wallet etc out of your bag at the rear of the 18th green to avoid a queue at the buggy park. One member had the idea of returning her trolley to the car and bringing back her own deckchair for her drink - great idea!!

Our tables are not ideal as they are narrow. Our picnic tables will all be in one area and these are restricted for those in one household to use. We will use our upstairs long tables with one seat at each end (over 2m), then have another table 2m away. In this way a 4-ball could converse. After that, we have chairs in a circle (max 6 allowed), all 2m apart. We may put a small table in the middle, but please keep the chairs 2m apart. After that, if we run out of chairs, we are using tree stumps, sanded and varnished, as both seats and small drinks tables. On a busy day we would ask our younger members to head for these first so that our senior members can benefit from conventional chairs.

There will be wooden blocks on tables with one green side and one red. The tables will all be cleaned in the morning and show 'green'. As you sit at a table flick the block from green to red. Once you have left the next group should not sit at a table until a member of staff has cleaned it and returned the disk to green. There will also be a table number on the block. Take note of this number when ordering food at the bar.

The bar has been covered in perspex. There is a queueing system at the bar, 2m apart, but only room for three in the queue. The fourth in the queue is then outside in the covered walkway. Normally we thank our members for returning glasses etc to the bar but now our staff must do this to avoid the congestion 'pinch point' at the bar.

Heinz is raring to return and has developed a 'take away' style menu. The idea is for you to thoroughly wash your hands and have the option of hand food - panini, fish and chips and his own homemade pizzas, as an addition to the normal menu. The packaging and serviettes can then go into foot operated pedal bins.

The locker rooms and showers are closed for changing. Please empty your lockers by 4 July if you have not already done so. The committee will look at giving you 12 months of useable rental in the future. However, the toilet areas will be 'one at a time' and there will be a 2m queue system within the locker rooms for the toilets.

We are unable to take any functions, parties, weddings etc until further notice to ensure that we can use the upstairs room in the event of bad weather. We may be able to discuss use of the room for winter evenings, but that would be dependent upon the prevalence of the virus.

We are allowing a return to one Stableford per weekend, starting Saturday 18 July (alternating Saturday and Sunday each week) and one Stableford per week, on a Monday, for Seniors. Ladies have the invitation to be included in both and we will liaise with the Lady Captain. Steve and Keith are investigating apps and ways to enter that are Covid risk free. We will restrict all competitions to 3-balls.

From 4 July we will require the e-mail address of all golfers. This is to enable 'track and trace' in the event of someone testing positive for the virus who has played at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club. Very few people use the Clubhouse and not the course, but if you do have such a guest we will need their details too.

Finally, we give our heartfelt thanks to everyone who have followed the rules and kept their distance. The bar taps will flow again soon so now is the perfect time to remind everyone to keep their distance - no hugging on the 18th green, and don't start getting closer after a couple of beers! I have instructed all bar staff to refuse service should that happen.

I return to our basic priority in this pandemic - every member, young or elderly, with or without health issues, needs to feel within their comfort zone at 'The Vale'.

The Course

We are building the two steel water tanks this month and the concrete will soon be fired in for the bases. This could mean the 2nd tees are temporarily moved forward of the pond.

The fairways have all had a clover and general weed killer spray so we hope they will be 100% grass soon!

The bunkers remain our worst part of the course as you can end up in the footprint of golfers ahead. The EGU 'Covid' rule is to take a preferred lie, within one club length, not nearer the hole, and place the ball. This helps, but the bunkers still need a rake! So we have bought 50 'rake tops' that slide onto the handle of your sand wedge. These are £7.50 (trade price if you use your white card) from the shop. We would encourage as many members as possible to buy one of these. Continual raking of bunkers not only smooths the surface but also loosens the sand that compacts underneath. This means that your club is less likely to 'bounce' off a compacted layer which can result in you thinning the ball. So please, rake the sand...and put your back into it!!

Chris Wright

Rules of Golf

Substitution of Another Ball While Playing Hole - When a Player is Allowed and not Allowed to Substitute Another Ball. Certain Rules allow a player to change the ball he or she is using to play a hole by substituting another ball as the ball in play, and others do not. For example:

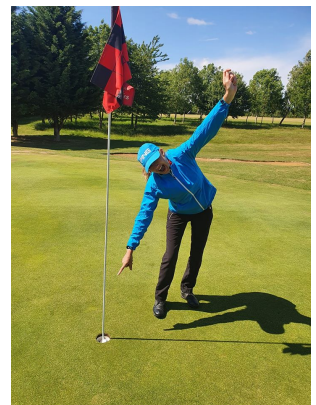
- When taking relief under a Rule, including when either dropping a ball or placing a ball (such as when a ball will not stay in the relief area or when taking relief on the putting green), the player may use either the original ball or another ball (Rule 14.3a),
- When playing again from where a previous stroke was made, the player may use either the original ball or another ball (Rule 14.6), and
- When replacing a ball on a spot, the player is not allowed to substitute a ball and must use the original ball, with certain exceptions (Rule 14.2a).

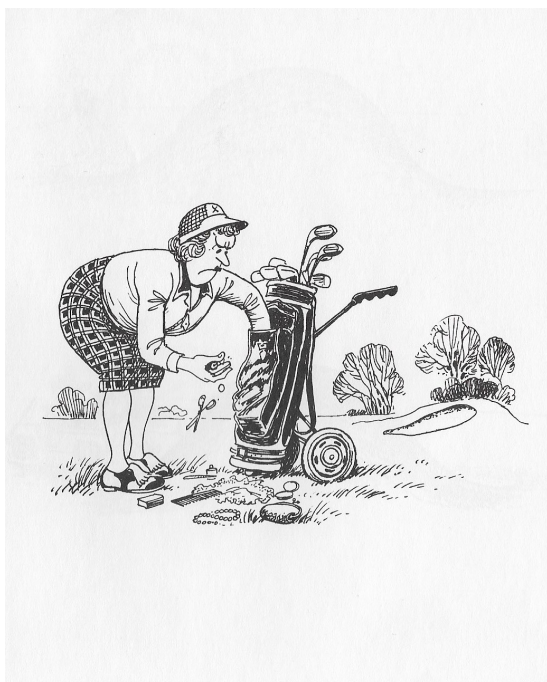
Holes-in-One

Vanessa Bond achieved another hole-in-one on the 15th at AVGC, on Friday 5 June. She looks very happy!

Richard Braithwaite also scored an ace on the AVGC 2nd hole on Wednesday 24 June (his second one on this hole).

...and Shane Lea very nearly did it!





From 'Play It As It Lies' by Thelwell ©



Gentle apologies to the ladies for the cartoons. Beware...there may be more!

Tip of the Month by your Club Professional, Terry Bunyan

Here's a great tip especially in these difficult times. I have done a few 9-hole coaching lessons during and have only taken out a half set of clubs each time. You may wish to try this yourselves. It really does help your creativity on the course having to hit shots with different clubs.

I know Faldo in his heyday would practice with a half set - odds one day, evens the next. If your ability allows, try only hitting fades on one day and draws the next.

Safe golfing.

Anything For Sale?

If you have any unwanted golf items to sell, why not advertise them at no cost in *The Vale*? The Editor will be happy to receive details (including photographs) from you for publication. Email details to: lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk.

The Vale

This newsletter is produced monthly for all Club members. If you would like to receive a personal copy each month by email, just ask the Editor to add you to his mailing list.

To help add interest to *The Vale*, why not send the Editor something golf-related that he can include in an issue – perhaps a review of a course that you've visited and really recommend (or definitely don't). Photographs are welcomed.

The Editor can be contacted at: lanceredler@yahoo.co.uk

Men

A Word from the Departing Men's Captain...

As my extended year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Men's Committee and Section for their support during my tenure. I have greatly enjoyed my time as Captain and look back over the period with fond memories.

The chosen Charity for my year, Hospice at Home Volunteers, have benefitted to the tune of £10,180, a great effort from all concerned.

One of the greatest pleasures of the past year has been the company and support of my Vice-Captain, Keith McGoverne. We are all very fortunate to have him as the incoming Captain for 2020/21.

Finally, I would also like to thank my fellow Captains, Julie and Larry, for the sterling work they have put in this year.

Good luck to the 2020/21 Captains and remember, past Captains receive big Gimmies!

Steve Chandler

A Word from the Incoming Men's Captain...

I'd like to kick off my first Captain's roundup with thanks and congratulations to the outgoing Captains – Steve, Larry, Julie, and Freddie - on a job well done, and welcome back to Larry! I'd also like to welcome my fellow incoming Captains this year, Kath and Abi.

It's been an interesting, if busy induction into the running of the Club during my time as Vice-Captain, and I've had an insight into what happens behind the scenes to guarantee things runs smoothly – imagine a serene swan gliding on the water; beneath the surface his little feet are paddling like mad!

Strange, unprecedented times are upon us, and the Captains' Drive-In weekend that traditionally celebrates the handover from outgoing to incoming Captains was sadly postponed. We're hoping to reschedule the Captains' Drive-In in the New Year. On the plus side, this gives us newbies a little more time to practise getting the ball off the tee, something that is (usually) like second nature to me! Mr Page, you now have time to ensure your yardage machine is freshly calibrated, because if you didn't know, I'm a big hitter!! 'Out of Bounds' is calling, according to some, but I'll do my best to buck that trend.

During lockdown and course closure, the weather proved to be glorious; hopefully, that trend continues now that we're playing again! It certainly proved strange returning from a sodden course trudging aimlessly through the mud and longing for the sun to shine once again, only to find ourselves moaning about the unpredictable bounce. There's always a seasonal excuse for a battle-hardened golfer!

At the time of writing the focus is on getting everyone back on the course. For those members craving competitive golf, AVGC will have access to the new Club V1 App by the end of June, and we'll be looking to run some competitions once we've got to grips with the new system. These competitions are distinct from the traditional competitions, as the focus will be on socialising and some post-lockdown fun (Stableford, not Medal play). Another bonus to these interim competitions will be that we can play for free.

We're open to suggestions once we're up and running, and we'll be guided by the members, so please let us have your suggestions.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce our continued support of the local Hospice at Home charity for the forthcoming year. Jaquie, Liz, and Sophie were ecstatic when I gave them the call and look forward to working with us again. Massive congratulations for the record-breaking amount raised last year, in no small part due to the tenacity of Mr Chandler, who was like a dog with a (fundraising) bone throughout the year! Joking aside, thank you to all our members for their support of this worthy cause; the money raised will make a huge difference to local families in need. Let's do it again this year!

And finally: keep smiling...

Keith McGoverne

As I'm sure you have read in the various Captains' reports, competitions will be starting very soon. The Men's Section will start with a Stableford which will include any Ladies who wish to join in. Once we

are happy things are running successfully, we will introduce entry fees, 2's club etc. Chris has kindly allocated four hours of tee-times for 18 July so please get your entry in by 11 July, as no further entries will be accepted after this date. There will also be no reserve list as any spare tee-times will be given back to the shop.

Last year's winter knockouts (Men's, Midweek and Seniors) plus the Scratch trophy all need to be completed and my thanks go to those people who have already completed semi-finals etc.

Finally enjoy your golf, have patience with your fellow golfers, obey the Club rules and above all stay safe.

Men's Committee 2020/21

The incoming Men's Committee is:

Captain: Keith McGoverne
Vice-Captain: Neil Meldrum
Treasurer: Keith Loxton
Golf Secretary: Dave Lea
Fixtures Secretary: Andrew Ashcroft
Handicap Secretary: Adrian Fallon
Admin Secretary: Roger White
5-Day Representative: Peter Codrai
Members: Mark Mansfield, Brian Smith

Seniors

A Word from the Seniors' Captain...

A very warm greeting from the Seniors to the new Men's and Ladies' Captains. We hope that Kath Scott and Keith McGoverne enjoy their respective terms of office as all of us slowly return to normality.

I was expecting not to have much to say as Seniors' golf lay dormant during the lockdown, but I was delighted to announce the return to competitions for Seniors from Monday 20 July. Provided the return to competition works well and safety concerns are all met, we can look forward to playing some individual or pairs Stablefords during a protected slot on Mondays, although we welcome ladies playing their own competition to mix in with us during that time.

We will begin with rounds from the Summer Six and catch up on some Drawn Pairs competitions. To avoid cash handling, there will initially be no entry fees or cash prizes. Individual Stablefords will be qualifiers for handicap purposes. More information is on the Seniors web pages which as usual will have the latest information. You can navigate to our pages through the main AVGC website or directly by going to www.avgcseniors.co.uk.

Please note that entry to these competitions must be done by email to davelea1943@gmail.com and must be received seven days before the competition date.

Larry Goddard

Seniors' Committee 2020/21

As announced in the April issue, the Seniors' Committee that became effective on 1 April is:

Captain: Larry Goddard
Vice-Captain: Keith Loxton
Treasurer: Mike Boden
Admin Secretary: Mike Pelizzoni
Competition Secretary: Dave Lea
Social Secretary: Peter Codrai
Members: Chris Cox, Terry Neve

Ladies

A Word from the Departing Lady Captain...

No report was received.

A Word from the Incoming Lady Captain...

I could not have guessed the start of my Lady Captain's year. No Drive-In. No Lady Captain's Day. No competitions. So what have I got to report? Not a lot, but we can look forward. The Men's Section are working towards an app that will enable us to play competitions once a week, starting on Saturday 18 and Monday 20 July. More details to follow. It will be different to what we are used to but I'm sure if we all help each other we will get there.

Our winter Knock Outs can be completed and I'm sure as time goes on we will get back to playing Mondays, Wednesdays and the weekends.

I'm the meantime let's enjoy our social golf, enjoy the course which is in excellent condition thanks to Chris and all the staff. We should appreciate the work and organisation that has gone on so that we can enjoy knocking that little white ball around.



Sometimes it's good to break the rules.

Kath Scott

Ladies' Committee 2020/21

The Ladies' Committee for the coming year is:

Captain: Kath Scott
Vice-Captain: Post vacant
Treasurer: Charlotte Simpson
Admin Secretary: Lesley Wright
7-day Competition Secretary: Sheila Perkins
5-day Competition Secretary: Jackie Boden
Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett

Pro Shop

Club Regripping Services are now in Operation. Take advantage and get Golf Pride's most popular grip placed on your clubs. New decade Multicompound Grips are available in a variety of colours.



This grip RRP is £12.99 and you can get it and have it fitted at AVGC for just £10 per club.

and in Conclusion...

...the last word is... enjoy your competitions as they are gently re-introduced.

...and a touch of humour... Golfer 1: *'Your trouble is that you're not addressing the ball correctly.'*

Golfer 2: *'Yeah, well I've been polite to the b....y thing for long enough.'*

Lance Redler

Editor

cc: Club Professionals, charities

What's on This Month?

(All-Section and Club events are in **bold**)

No inter-Club matches are currently scheduled by any Section.

Men

Saturday 18 July – Stableford 0700-1100

Sunday 26 July – Stableford 0700-1100

Seniors

Monday 20 July - Summer Six (1) 0730-1000

Monday 27 July – Summer Six (2) 0730-1000

Monday 3 August – Jones Drawn Foursomes 0730-1000

Monday August 10 – Summer Six (3) 0730-1000

Additional Seniors' competitions will be announced in due course. For details of these see the Seniors' website: www.avgcseniors.co.uk or from the AVGC home page, by selecting Members Information and then the dropdown Seniors.

Ladies

Saturday 18 July – Stableford 0700-1100

Monday 20 July – Stableford 0730-1000 with Seniors, or
Stableford 1000-1030

Sunday 26 July – Stableford 0700-1100

Monday 27 July Stableford 0730-1000 with Seniors, or
Stableford 1000-1030

Separate guidance will be issued for later competitions for the Ladies' Section.

Key Contacts

Club Management

e-mail: info@avgc.co.uk

www.avgc.co.uk

Tel: 01525 240196

Memberships/Shop/Tee bookings: Chris Wright, Garry Hutchinson, Jason Thornalley, Dan Lazar

Restaurant/Functions: Jason Thornalley, Chris Wright

Head Chef: Heinz Simon

Head Greenkeeper: Luke Foley

Teaching Professionals: Russell Phillips 07843 692948 or r.phillips@avgc.co.uk

Terry Bunyan 07588 272322
or terrygolf1965@gmail.com

Men

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5-day Competition Secretary: Jackie Boden

Handicap Secretary: Jean Barnett

Juniors

Captain: Abi Pearce

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